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| 10/692,204 | 10/23/2003 | A. Gary Bowden | 4384-032517 | 9510 |

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| EXAMINER |
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JULES, FRANTZ F

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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3617

DATE MAILED: 12/07/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/692,204

Applicant(s)

BOWDEN, A. GARY

Examiner

Frantz F. Jules

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/27/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 18-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 18, line 3, the word "corresp[onding]" should be changed to –corresponding–.

In claim 18, line 4, the word "a" should be changed to –the– in front of the phrase "friction wedge assembly".

In claim 18, line 6, the word "such" should be changed to –a–.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 15, the phrase "such railroad car truck" is confusing as it is unclear which particular one of the numerous railroad car trucks recited above applicant is referring to.

Claims 2-15 are rejected as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duncan et al (US 6,374,749).

Claim 18

Duncan et al disclose a composition liner (70) for use with a friction wedge assembly, a first side of said composition liner having a predetermined configuration engageable with a corresponding configuration of a bonding matrix (86) of the friction wedge assembly (10) and a radially opposed second side of said composition liner for engaging a metal wear liner on a side frame of such railroad car truck, see col. 4, lines 39-41 where composite wear-resistant materials liner are disclosed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3, 7-12, 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duncan et al (US 6,374,749 B1) in view of Wiebe (US 4,915,031). Duncan et al disclose a composition liner (70) for use with a friction wedge assembly, a first side of said composition liner having a predetermined configuration engageable with a corresponding configuration of a bonding matrix (86) of the friction wedge assembly (10) and a radially opposed second side of said composition liner for

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engaging a metal wear liner on a side frame of such railroad car truck, see col. 4, lines 39-41 where composite wear-resistant materials liner are disclosed.

Duncan et al teach all the limitations of claims 1-3, 7-12 and 15-17 except for a friction wedge assembly comprising a bonding matrix having a plurality of cavities having a predetermined configuration disposed on the truck side frame engaging surface of the wedge. The general concept of providing a structure having a plurality of cavities having a predetermined configuration disposed on the truck side frame engaging surface of a wedge is well known in the art as illustrated by Wiebe which discloses the teaching of an indented structure having a plurality of cavities as shown in fig. 6 having a predetermined configuration disposed on the truck side frame engaging surface of a wedge. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Duncan et al to include the use of a plurality of cavities having a predetermined configuration in the bonding matrix (86) which is disposed on the truck side frame engaging surface of the wedge in his advantageous friction wedge assembly as taught by Wiebe in order to improve the damping characteristics of the vehicle body while reducing the weight of the friction wedge assembly.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claims 4-6, 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Ditzler et al, Mulcahy et al, McCabe et al and Spencer are cited to show related railroad trucks comprising friction wedge with composite liner.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frantz F. Jules whose telephone number is (703) 308-8780. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph S. Morano can be reached on (703) 308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Frantz F. Jules
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

**FRANTZ F. JULES
PRIMARY EXAMINER**



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December 3, 2004